

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A thermal printhead comprising a substrate and a plurality of heat-producing resistance sections provided on the substrate, the heat-producing resistance sections melting ink of an ink ribbon, which is transferred together with a recording sheet, to transfer the ink onto the recording sheet;

wherein the thermal printhead further comprises an inequality surface region provided downstream from the heat-producing resistance sections in a secondary scanning direction which is a transfer direction of the ink ribbon, the inequality surface region including a plurality of projections each of which extends in the secondary scanning direction and which are aligned at predetermined intervals in a primary scanning direction which is perpendicular to the secondary scanning direction[.];

wherein at least some of the projections are inclined with respect to a center line so as to become farther from the center line as the projections extend downstream in the secondary scanning direction, the center line being a line positioned at the center, in the primary scanning direction, of a region where the heat-producing resistance sections are arranged.

2. Canceled.

3. (Previously presented) The thermal printhead according to claim 1, further comprising a glaze layer formed on the substrate; and

an edge pattern which is formed adjacent to a downstream edge of the glaze layer in the secondary scanning direction and is in a form of a rib extending in the primary scanning direction;

wherein the inequality surface region is provided by forming inequalities at an upper portion of the edge pattern.

4-5. Canceled.

6. (New) The thermal printhead according to claim 1, wherein the projections are arranged in a plurality of rows each extending in the primary scanning direction.
7. (New) The thermal printhead according to claim 6, wherein those of the projections arranged in one row are aligned with corresponding ones of the projections arranged in another row.
8. (New) The thermal printhead according to claim 1, wherein those of the projections that are located on one side of the center line in the primary scanning direction are inclined in a first direction, those of the projections that are located on an opposite side of the center line in the primary scanning direction are inclined in a second direction opposite to the first direction.